

MAJESTY  
His Majesty and Royal  
COMMISSION  
For the Relief of Poor Distressed  
PRISONERS.

---

*Published by Authority.*

---



---

Printed for M. D. and sold by the  
the Royal Office, in St. Pauls Church  
North door of the said Church  
M.D.C. LXXV.

MATTERS

And the same and more

COMMISSION

For the relief of the


PRISONERS



LONDON

Printed for M. D. and are to be sold by Messrs. W. & A. G. in St. Paul's Church-yard, near the little North-door of St. Paul's Church.

M.D.C.C.LXIV.



# His Majesties

Most *Gracious* and *Royal*

## COMMISSION,

For the *Relief* of Poor Distressed

## PRISONERS.



**C**HARLES the Second, by the  
 Grace of God, King of England,  
 Scotland, France and Ireland,  
 Defender of the Faith, &c. To  
 Our Right Trusty and Right  
 Well-beloved, the most Rebe-  
 rend Father in God, the Arch-  
 bishop of Canterbury, now and  
 for the time being; The Right Reverend Fa-  
 ther in God, the Lord Bishop of London,  
 now and for the time being; The Reverend  
 Father in God, the Lord Bishop of Wiche-  
 ster, now and for the time being; and the Lord  
 Bishop

Bishop of Rochester, now and for the time being;  
 To Our Trusty and Well-beloved, the Lord Mayor  
 of Our City of London, now and for the time be-  
 ing; The Judges, and other Our Justices, as  
 well for the Pleas, before Us to be holden, as of  
 the Common-Pleas, assigned, or to be assigned  
 for the time being; The Chief Baron, and other the  
 Barons of Our Exchequer, now and for the time  
 being; The Chancellor of Our Duchy of Lan-  
 caster, for the time being; The Masters of Our  
 Requests, for the time being; Our Serjeants at  
 Law, Attorney General, and Solicitor General,  
 for the time being; The Attorney of Our Duchy  
 of Lancaster, for the time being; The Almoner of  
 Our Household, for the time being; The Master  
 of the Rolls of Our Court of Chancery, now and for  
 the time being; The Dean, and Resident Can-  
 nons of Our Cathedral Church of St. Paul, in Our  
 City of London, for the time being; The Dean,  
 and Resident Cannons of Our Collegiate Church  
 of St. Peter, in Westminster, for the time being;  
 The Master of Our Savoy for the time being; The  
 Chancellor and Chancellors, for the time being,  
 of every the Arch-bishops and Bishops aforesaid;  
 The Arch-deacons of London, Essex and Middlesex,  
 for the time being; The Masters of Our Court of  
 Chancery, now and for the time being; The Re-  
 corder of Our said City of London, now and for the  
 time being; The Lieutenant of Our Tower of  
 London, now and for the time being; All and eve-  
 ry of the Justices of the Peace, now and for the  
 time

time being; All and ebery of the Iustices of the Peace, now being, or which hereafter shall be Resident or dwelling within Our said City of London, and Suburbs thereof; And in the Countiees of Middlesex, Surrey and Kent, within fife miles of the City of London; And all and ebery the Advocates, towards the Court of Canterbury, of the Archbishops of London, now and for the time being; And all and ebery the Advocates of the said Court, for the time being, or which hereafter shall be; All and ebery the Masters and Governours, especially appointed by the Mayor and Commonalty of the said City, for the Receipt, Order, Disposition and Government of the Rents, Revenues and Profits of the Houses of the Poor of Christ, and St. Thomas the Apostle, now and for the time being; And the Masters and Governours thereunto appointed, now and for the time being; And all and ebery the Masters and Wardens, now and for the time being, of the Company of Mercers, Drapers, Goldsmiths, Grocers, Cloath-workers, Merchant-taylors, Ironmongers, Haberdashers, Fishmongers, Salters, Skinners and Tanners of Our City of London, now and for the time being, and to ebery of them, Greeting; Whereas the late Queen ELIZABETH, upon the lamentable Petitions, Complaints and Supplications of divers her loving Subjects, being Prisoners in the Kings Bench, and in the Fleet, did by her Commission under the Great Seal of England, bearing Date the Twentieth day of April, in the

Eight

Eight and Twentieth Year of her Reign, Author-  
 ize certain Commissioners therein named, for the  
 Ordering and Compounding of the Contrabandies  
 and Causes, between the said distressed Prisoners  
 and their Creditors, and such others, by whom  
 they were detained Prisoners, or in Execution;  
 And to do others other things, in the said Commis-  
 sion expressed, which Commission continued in  
 force from the Date thereof, until the Decease of  
 the said Queen ELIZABETH. And Whereas  
 Our late Dear, and most Royal Grand-father,  
 King James, of happy Memory, being informed  
 that certain Clauses contained in the said Commis-  
 sion, had seemed unto some to be derogatory to the  
 Common Lawes of this Our Realm of England;  
 And also, for that by colour of the said Commis-  
 sion, (which was intended for the Charitable Re-  
 lief of Poor, Miserable and Distressed Persons)  
 sundry refractory and obstinate Debtors, which  
 rather wanted Will than Means to satisfy their  
 just Debts, took occasion to molest and trouble their  
 Creditors; Our said Grand-father, out of his  
 Princely Care and Vigilancy, to prevent all occa-  
 sions of Inconveniency to his Loving Subjects,  
 especially such as tended to the breach of his  
 Lawes, Did for many years forbear the Renew-  
 ing of the said Commission: And finding that as  
 his forbearance wrought a good effect, by discour-  
 aging of obstinate and wilful Debtors, that  
 sought nothing more, than Evasions to avoid the  
 Payment of their just Debts; so also, that for  
 want

want of that, or some other like charitable  
 Course, for the Relief of such as were truly and  
 indeed Poor, Distressed and Miserable; and want-  
 ed Means to satisfy their Creditors, It had been  
 occasion to pester and fill his Prisons with the  
 Bodies of such Persons, whose Punishment  
 could no way avail their Creditors, but rather  
 was a hindrance to the satisfaction of their Debts:  
 For that during the time of their Restraint, they  
 were no wayes able to go about, or attend their  
 lawfull Business, but must of force consume  
 themselves, and that little they had, miserably,  
 and in Prison. And upon due consideration had  
 of the Premises, Our said Royal Grand-father,  
 by his Commission under the Great Seal of  
 England, bearing Date the Eleventh day of No-  
 vember, in the Sixteenth Year of his Reign of  
 England, by the Advice of the then Lord Chan-  
 cellour of England, and also of divers of his  
 Principal Judges of his Courts at Westmin-  
 ster, Did Authorize the Commissioners there-  
 in named, to proceed according to the Tenour  
 of the said Commission, for the Relief of the  
 said poor Prisoners, in the aforesaid Prisons.  
 And afterwards Our said Royal Grand-father,  
 being informed that his said Commission had  
 not taken that good effect which was expected,  
 Renewed the said Commission, and thereby pre-  
 scribed and directed such a moderate Course, as  
 that neither the Insolence of wilful and obstinate  
 Debtors, should be thereby encouraged, nor the



derogation of his Lawes, nor yet his Grace and Clemency be wanting unto such, to whom it should be meet to extend the same. And whereas Our said Grand-father, upon the humble Suit and Petition of his loving Subjects, his distressed Prisoners in the Prison of the Marshalsea, and other Prisons, in and about the Cities of London and Westminster, and other Places near adjoining to the same, whose Case was as much to be Commiserated and lamented, as the said Prisoners of the said Kings Bench and the Fleet, did by one other his Commission, sealed with the Great Seal of England, bearing Date the Tenth day of July, in the Two and Twentieth Year of his Reign, Authorize certain Commissioners therein named, for the Ordering and Compounding of the Causes of the distressed Prisoners and their Creditors, in the Prisons, and within the Places therein, and hereafter in these Presents mentioned and expressed, as thereby may more at large appear. And whereas Our Royal Father of Blessed Memory, by two several Commissions, under the Great Seal of England, the one bearing Date at Canterbury, the Sixth day of June, in the Fourth Year of his Reign; And the other bearing Date at Westminster, the One and Thirtieth day of December, in the Sixth Year of his Reign, Authorized divers Commissioners therein expressed, to the same, or like purpose as aforesaid, as thereby also more  
at



at large may appear. Which <sup>first</sup> Commiſſions, upon the Death of Our ſaid Royal Father, of Blessed Memory, determined. And Whereas Our Loving Subjects, the poor Distressed Prisoners, in Our Prisons within Our Cities of London and Westminster, and Suburbs of the ſame Cities, have by their humble Petition beſought Us, That We would be Graciouſly pleaſed to Renew the ſaid former Commiſſions, heretofore Granted by Our ſaid Royal Predeceſſors. Know ye therefore, That We taking the ſame into Our Princely Conſideration, and minding the Welfare and Relief of the ſaid poor diſtreſſed Prisoners, have (by, and with the Advice of the Lords of Our Privy Council) of Our eſpecial Grace, certain Knowledge and mature Motion) Have, Conſtituted and Appointed, And by theſe Preſents do Make, Conſtitute and Appoint You to be Our Commiſſioners; And do hereby Give and Grant to You, or any Three, or more of You, full Power and Authority, at all and every time and times, from henceforth, ſo often as to You, or any Three, or more of You (as is aforeſaid) ſhall ſeem convenient and needful, to aſſemble and meet together, in ſome convenient place, in, or nigh the City of London, as to You, or any Three, or more of You, ſhall ſeem fit for the Execution of this Our Commiſſion: And before ſuch Your Meeting, by Warrant under Your Hands, or the Hands of any Three, or more

more of You, as is aforesaid, upon reasonable warning (and at the Charges of the Prisoners) To call before You, as well such person or persons, sufficiently instructed for, and on the behalf of such distressed Prisoners, as now, or hereafter shall happen to be Imprisoned, in Our Prisons of Our Kings Bench, Fleet, Marshalseas, White Lyon, Clink, New Prison, the Compter in Wood-street, the Compter in the Poultry, Ludgate, Newgate, Gate-House, St. Katherines, White-Chappel, Brighthurst and Finchbury, and all other Prisons, near or about London, or any of them, by reason of, or for any Action or Actions of Debt, Actions upon the Case, Trespasses, Detinue Trover, or other personal Action, Judgments, Execution or Executions whatsoever. And also the Creditors, and such others as have, or ought to have the benefit of the Actions, Suits, Judgments or Executions, for which they are detained in Prison; and the Executors, Administrators and Attorneys of every of them, and all other persons whatsoever, to whom it shall appertain, or some persons indifferently Authorized and Instructed, for, and on their behalf, whom We do hereby Command to Appear before You, upon such Your Warrants, either in their own persons, or by some other, sufficiently Instructed and Authorized on their behalf; And at such Your Meetings, to receive the Supplications and Complaints of the said poor distressed Prisoners, and by

by all wayes and means, to inform your selves as well of the due Debt, Damages and Duty, for which such Actions, Suits, Plaints, Judgements or Executions, is, or shall be prosecuted, obtained or gotten; As of the certain Estate and Ability of the Prisoners, how to pay and discharge the same; And thereupon, by all good and lawful wayes and means, to treat with the Creditors, or other Persons, which have, or shall have the Benefit of such Actions, Suits, Judgements or Executions, and to make Compositions and Agreements with them; Wherein Our Pleasure is, That some of the Judges of the Court, by, or from which the said Prisoner or Prisoners shall be Committed, shall be privy or consenting to the conclusion of such Compositions and Agreements. And in Cases where no Conclusion or Composition can be made, after Examination thereof, to certifie the truth of the same, unto Us and Our Privy Council, To the end such speedy course may be taken therein, as shall effectually tend to the Relief and Release of the Prisoners Grieved, according to Justice and Equity. And that such of You Our said Commissioners, as shall go about such Compositions, shall do Your best endeavours, That the poor Prisoners by Your means and mediations, may be Relieved, and have such reasonable Years, Dayes and Times of Payment for such their Debts and Damages, as they shall not be presently able to satisfie; and with such security

for

for payment thereof, as in Equity and good Conscience, (having respect to the Ability of the Prisoner) and the Charge of Wife and Children, and other Incidents to pious Cases considered as by You shall be thought fit; Streighly charging and commanding You, and every of You, That for the better Expedition and further Accomplishment of Our Charitable Intent and Will, in remedying of the grievous Distresses of Our said poor Subjects, and distressed Prisoners, You, or some Thre or more of You, as is aforesaid, do from time to time, and as often as it shall be needful, assemble Your selves together, in some such convenient place as is aforesaid, as You tender Our Pleasure. Provided nevertheless, and Our Will and Pleasure is, That You Our said Commissioners, or any of You, shall not proceed to the Execution of this Our Commission, for, or touching any such Matter or Cause, as is before mentioned: Wherein You shall be occasioned to call, or cause any person resident, abiding or remaining in any place, being above Ten Miles from Our Cities of London and Westminster, to give Attendance upon You, only within, or during the time of the Termes, or within Seven Dayes before the beginning, or Ten Dayes after the end of every Term. And if any such Creditor or Creditors, or other person or persons, for whose Debts, Costs or Damages, such distressed Prisoner or Prisoners, shall remain in Prison as aforesaid, shall Refuse

use upon the said Precepts; or Warrants to  
 Appear before You; or appearing, to refuse to  
 Attend the Commissioners further pleasure, or  
 to send some other person or persons, sufficient-  
 ly Authorized and Instructed, to Treat and Con-  
 clude with You as aforesaid. Upon due conside-  
 ration of the nature and quality of such Refusal  
 and Contempt, You shall and may, take such  
 order for punishment of the same, and for pro-  
 curing such persons Appearance, as to You shall  
 be thought meet. And that You, or any such Three  
 or more of You, shall and do use all lawful wayes  
 and means, to cause such Creditors, or other per-  
 son or persons, to yield to take, and to perform  
 such moderate and reasonable Compositions and  
 Agreements, as by You, or any Three or more  
 of You, shall be thought meet and set down.  
 And for that Our meaning is to be ayding and  
 assisting with Our Grace and Labour to the  
 Misery and Calamity of such as are truly poor  
 and distressed, and not to such as lye in Prison,  
 rather of wilfulness and obstinacy, and out of a  
 resolution to retain large and ample Estates to  
 themselves, by hindering their Just and Honest  
 Creditors of their due Debts and reasonable  
 Damages; Therefore We do hereby streighly  
 Charge and Command You, and every of You,  
 That in all Your proceedings, by Vertue of this  
 Commission, You be very circumspect and careful,  
 to try and find out such wilful and obstinate per-  
 sons, and in no wise suffer them, or any of  
 them,

them, to partake of Our Grace and Mercy, which hereby We intend to them, that are, and shall be willing, with their own Estates, Bona Fide, and without fraud, so far forth as it will extend to satisfie their Just Debts and Damages, for which they shall be so detained in Prison, so as care be had of themselves, their Wives and Children; And unto such poor and miserable persons, as have not wherewithal to satisfie their Debts, but shall be constrained miserably to perish in Prison, except in pity they shall be relieved. And that You, or any Three or more of You, where just and necessary cause shall be found, do call before You any Prisoner or Prisoners, now detained in any of the said Prisons; And if the Tylor or Keeper of the said Prison (where such Prisoner shall be) shall not, or will not, upon the Warrant of You, or any Three or more of You, give the said Prisoner Liberty, with his Keeper, to Attend accordingly; That then, and in every such case, You, or any Three or more of You, shall from time to time, (and as often as occasion shall be) make Certificate of the Refusal of such Tylor or Tylors, to the Lord Chancellor, or Lord Keeper of Our Great Seal, for the time being to Certifie thereupon, and upon security given by such Prisoner or Prisoners, either to pay his Debts, or to render his Body within a certain time, may, as he shall see cause; Writ Habeas Corpus, or other Charge, not such

such Prisoner or Prisoners as shall procure such Certificate, To the end the said Prisoner or Prisoners may the better attend the prosecution of his Cause, and effectually pay his Debts, or make Composition for the same; And to the end You Our Commissioners may the more readily and easily execute this Our Commission amongst other Our weighty affairs, Our Will and Pleasure is, That this Our Commission shall continue in force. And We do hereby Authorize You Our said Commissioners, or any Three or more of You to proceed in the Execution thereof, and of all and every matter and thing therein contained, from time to time, as often as You, or any Three or more of You shall think convenient; Albeit the same Commission be not from time to time continued by adjournment. And lastly, To the end this Our Commission, may be the better put in Execution, We have Made, Constituted and Appointed Our Trusty and Well-beloved John Knight Gent. his sufficient Deputy or Deputies to be Register to Our said Commissioners, and to be from time to time attending, ayding and assisting unto them and every of them in and about the Premises, and to do and do all such matters and things, and have and receive such fees and allowances as by Our said Commissioners, or any Three or more of them shall be thought fit and necessary in that behalf. In Witnesse, &c.  
 Witnesse

G

FINIS.



[illegible]

21417

